(b) if so, what are its highlights; and

(c) in what specific areas the two countries are cooperating in this sector and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The two countries are cooperating in oil exploration in the following specific areas:—

(i) Intensive Integrated Exploration for hydrocarbons in identified areas of North Cambay and Cauvery and West Bengal basins.

(ii) Workover of idle and sick wells.

(iii) Deputation of Soviet specialists in India.

(iv) Training of Indian Personnel in USSR.

The protocol was signed as a result of the meeting of the Working Group which reviewed the progress of projects in the above areas of cooperation.

Total imports of Crude and Petroleum products

1290. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil experts at the oil and Natural Gas Commission headquarters fear that a huge increase in the country's import bill of crude and petroleum products will be necessary in view of the widening gap between consumption and production;

(b) if so, what is the total gap between consumption and production of the crude oil and petroleum products so far during 1988 and what are the steps being considered in this regard; and

(c) what are the total imports of crude oil and petroleum products made so far during the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The actual import bill of crude and petroleum products during the current financial year will be known only after the close of the year. However, as per current estimates the bill is not likely to be huge compared to the previous year.

(b) and (c) During the period January to September, 1988 a quantity of 13.4 million tonnes of crude oil and 3.9 million tonnes of petroleum products was imported to meet the deficit to the production and demand in the country.

Anticipation of Production Level of the Crude Oil

1291. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC have anticipated a production level of of about 4.5 million tonnes of crude oil from the Southern region by 1995-end;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of anticipated production level of crude oil by the ONGC from other regions of the country by 1995-end and what steps have been taken to achieve the targets?